

**SOME INDIGENOUS VASCULAR PLANTS IN SITE NO 3, VICINITY WINSTONES QUARRY, HEBDEN CRESCENT, HUTT VALLEY, CENTRED ON NZMS 260 MAP R27 WELLINGTON, G.R.737032; LIST COMPILED ON 16-6-97 BY B.J. MITCALFE.**

<b>BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>MAAORI NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<b>GYMNOSPERM TREES</b>		
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu	rimu
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro	miro
<b>MONOCOT TREES</b>		
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	tii koouka	cabbage tree
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	niikau	nikau
<b>DICOT TREES AND SHRUBS</b>		
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	makomako	wineberry
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora	rangiora
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweetaa	marbleleaf
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>		
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kaanono	kanono
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>		
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu	karamu
<i>Coprosma robusta</i> x <i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	karamu	karamu
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	kootukutuku	tree fuchsia
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange	hangehange
<i>Hebe stricta</i>	koromiko	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	porokaiwhiri	pigeonwood
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa	rewarewa
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea	pukatea
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	maanuka	manuka
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	maahoe	mahoe
<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>	ramarama	ramarama
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	maapou	mapou
<i>Olearia rani</i>	heketara	heketara
<i>Ozothamnus leptophyllus</i>	tauhinu	tauhinu
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	horoeka	lancewood
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	patee	seven finger
<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	poroporo	poroporo
<b>MONOCOT LIANES</b>		
<i>Freycinetia baueriana</i> ssp. <i>banksii</i>	kiekie	kiekie
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	kareao	supplejack
<b>DICOT LIANES</b>		

Metrosideros diffusa	aka tea	white climbing rata
Metrosideros fulgens	aka kura	scarlet rata
Parsonsia heterophylla	kaihua	parsonsia

### FERNS

Asplenium bulbiferum	manamana	hen & chickens
Asplenium flaccidum	makawe o Raukatauri	hanging spleenwort
Asplenium oblongifolium	huruhuru whenua	shining spleenwort
Asplenium polyodon	petako	sickle spleenwort
Blechnum chambersii	nini	lance fern
Blechnum discolor	piupiu	crown fern
Blechnum filiforme	paanako	thread fern
Blechnum fluviatile	kiwakiwa	
Blechnum novae-zelandiae	kiokio	kiokio
Cyathea dealbata	ponga	silver fern
Cyathea medullaris	mamaku	mamaku
Cyathea smithii	kaatote	soft tree fern
Dicksonia squarrosa	whekii	wheki
Hymenophyllum demissum	mauku	filmy fern
Lastreopsis hispida		hairy fern
Histiopteris incisa	maataataa	water fern
Leptopteris hymenophylloides	heruheru	single crepe fern
Paesia scaberula	maataa	ring fern
Phymatosorus pustulatus	koowaowao	hound's tongue
Phymatosorus scandens	mokimoki	fragrant fern
Pneumatopteris pennigera	paakau	gully fern
Pteridium esculentum	raarahu	bracken
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia	ota	leather-leaf fern
Rumohra adiantiformis	karawhiu	
Trichomanes reniforme	raurenga	kidney fern

### ORCHIDS

Thelymitra longifolia	maaikaika	sun orchid
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### SEDGES

Uncinia uncinata	matau a Maui	hooked sedge
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### MONOCOT HERBS other than orchids or sedges.

Collospermum hastatum	kahakaha	collospermum
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### DICOT HERBS

Epilobium sp.		willowherb
Hydrocotyle elongata		hydrocotyle
Ranunculus reflexus	maaruuruu	hairy buttercup
Senecio minimus		fireweed
Stellaria decipiens	kohukohu	chickweed
Urtica incisa	ongaonga	scrub nettle

## **BIRDS SEEN/HEARD DURING THE RECONNAISSANCE:**

### **INDIGENOUS BIRDS**

Kereruu	NZ pigeon
Riroriro	Greywarbler
Piwaiwaka	Fantail
Tauhou	Waxeye

### **ADVENTIVE BIRDS**

Magpie

### **SOME EXOTIC PLANTS**

Berberis glaucocarpa	Barberry
Cytisus scoparius	Broom
Ilex sp.	Holly
Leycesteria formosa	Himalaya honeysuckle
Ulex europaeus	Gorse

### **PEST ANIMALS**

Pigs?  
Possum

## NOTES ON A RAPID RECONNAISSANCE OF SITE 3, WINSTONES QUARRY, HEBDEN CRESCENT, HUTT VALLEY.

(SITE 15 e, BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY, 1984).

**FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED BELOW, THIS SITE IS CONSIDERED ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 1991.**

### Note:

1. For the purpose of these notes, Site 3 refers to the area shown on the accompanying vegetation map, i.e. the area surveyed.
2. The vegetation was sampled in the general vicinity of the miro, (marked M), the rimu, (marked R), and the lower reaches of catchments A and B.

### BOUNDARY

The existing boundary is considered adequate to protect the significant vegetation.

*It should be revised to exclude:*

*the area on the eastern side of the internal road, (marked 5), which is in gorse and broom, and the area on the southern side of the main stream, which is under a mosaic of gorse and early-stage indigenous successional species such as mahoe, (marked with vertical strokes).*

### FLORA AND FAUNA

The significant vegetation of Site 3 is indigenous, podocarp/broadleaved forest, with emergent tawa and rewarewa to 14+ metres, and an understorey of e.g. makomako, putaputaweetaa, porokaiwhiri, hinau, hangehange, kawakawa and ramarama. Pukatea to 12+ metres, nikau, tree ferns and lianes feature in the gullies. There is well-developed groundcover of at least 25 fern species.

Site 3 is significant habitat for birds. Species seen or heard were kereru, piwaiwaka, riroriro and tauhou. The most significant bird seen was kereru, NZ endemic, native pidgeon, *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*, ranked as medium-high priority in the Wellington Conservancy, and nationally vulnerable. One of our larger bird species, kereru are mainly frugivorous, tawa and miro fruit being one of their major food sources. They also rely on pigeonwood and nikau, both well-represented in Site 3. The forest of Site 3 is therefore highly significant to kereru, since so little podocarp/tawa forest remains in the vicinity.

With its well-developed, moist, leaf litter and dense aggregations of tree ferns, Site 3 has potential as indigenous landsnail habitat.

### RARITY/REPRESENTATIVENESS

Site 3 is representative of Wellington's tawa-dominant, lowland,

hill-country forest from which mature podocarps have been logged.

Indigenous, lowland forest sites such as this are among those of most concern in the Wellington Conservancy, ("Plant Conservation Strategy", Wgtn Conservancy of DoC, 1996). This is because so many of these sites have been destroyed, reduced or degraded by development.

Podocarp regeneration is not a common occurrence in the Wellington Ecological District, and the presence of (pole) rimu, and miro to (est.) 10 metres height, is particularly significant.

#### **DIVERSITY**

The total of seventy indigenous, vascular plant species listed during the reconnaissance would no doubt be considerably augmented by an intensive botanical survey. There is significant diversity of habitat, ranging from gullies and streamsides to drier spur crests. A biological survey would be needed to establish the fauna present, other than the birds mentioned above.

#### **DISTINCTIVENESS/LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY**

This forested site stands out dramatically from its immediate, rural and industrial surroundings. The sombre, emergent crowns of tawa and rewarewa, and the dense flights of mamaku and ponga immediately claim attention as indigenous vegetation: it *belongs* there.

The dense vegetation helps soften the visual impact of the scars left by quarrying. Significant areas of naturally-occurring, indigenous vegetation such as this, are appropriate to the terrain.

#### **CONTINUITY/LINKAGES**

Fortunately, continuity with Belmont Regional Park which adjoins the northern boundary of Site 3, enables the upper reaches of the two catchments marked A and B, which have their lower reaches in Site 3, to be protected.

The vegetation of Site 3 will be an important component of eventual corridors of native vegetation joining the Korokoro catchment with the substantial, indigenous forest remnant to the northwest, (listed as as Site 15h in the Biological Resources Survey 1984), and with eastern areas of Belmont Regional Park such as Dry Creek.

#### **CULTURAL/RECREATIONAL VALUES**

Site 3 has significant scenic and landscape values, and recreation potential in the form of a scenic walkway sidling to eventually connect Kelson Bush and with Dry Creek.

The presence of kiekie is of significance to iwi.

#### **POTENTIAL FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION/SUSTAINABILITY**

The presence of native pigeon is an indicator of the forest's sustainability potential. The tawa, miro and nikau regeneration

on the site is almost certainly due to bird activity. It could be said that to a considerable extent, the sustainability of pidgeon, tawa and miro are interdependent.

If the site is protected from further fragmentation, predation by pest animals and damaging incursions it will continue its natural process of vegetation succession. It is notably weed-free except for a few patches of gorse, (which in the absence of fire will in fact accelerate succession), and some Himalayan honeysuckle (*Lycesteria formosa*) on the outskirts.

Control of pest animals and the maintenance of adequate buffering would accelerate the site's full recovery.

### **OTHER CONSERVATION BENEFITS**

Site 3 has intrinsic value. "Landscapes do not need to be readily accessible or visible to have values which are worthy of protection. Some landscapes may not be accessible to people...but still have an intrinsic value which should be safeguarded. 'Intrinsic Value' is the value of the landscape in its own right, and the potential value that the landscape may hold for future generations." (Wellington (Draft) Regional Landscape Plan).

On the Inventory of Significant Wildlife Sites, the site is ranked as having potential, i.e. a positive ranking.

Site 3 has significant soil- and water-protection values. Compared with other local, land uses such as farming, the presence of this substantial area of vegetation helps mitigate the effects of erosion and siltation in the area.

### **THREATS**

Further roading/quarrying incursion and the tipping of spoil are the main, direct threats. It is clear that the forested area has already been very recently reduced by road-widening. Site 3 is already small, and every incursion reduces the forest's viability even further. Road-widening is likely to have destroyed many roadside seedlings, for instance podocarps, which colonise such well-lit sites in order to become established. An example is the rimu marked "R" which has grown up through roadside bracken.

Road-widening has also opened up the bush to wind penetration and dehydration, i.e. "the edge effect". Species which cannot tolerate these conditions will die out, thus altering the composition of the forest.

Large quantities of spoil have been tipped to form a steep slope immediately east of the confluence at NZMS Map Sheet 260 R27 PtQ27 GR 739029, burying substantial vegetation. The quarry manager states however that Winstones do not propose to continue tipping on this slope. Instead, it is proposed to tip spoil on the north-facing slope covered with early-successional, indigenous vegetation, on the south side of the main stream, marked with vertical strokes on the map. This is not supported. It provides a valuable buffer for the significant forest on the north side of the stream, and if left undisturbed, will continue to revegetate with native species similar in composition to those

on the north side. In other words, it is the forest of tomorrow, and is the subject of a recommendation below.

Some spoil could be used appropriately as a soil matrix for rehabilitative planting on the former quarry terraces south of the present quarry site, above SH2, and on the bare areas immediately northwest of Site 15 (pers. comm. Glenn Savage, Quarry Manager). This is strongly supported and is the subject of a recommendation below.

The lack of animal pest control is a threat to the sustainability of the Site 3 ecosystem. "Kereru are predated by rats, stoats and possums, and competition for fruit by possums may reduce breeding attempts." (Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand, by Barrie Heather and Hugh Robertson, 1996). See recommendation below.

A potential threat is posed by a subdivision planned to occupy the land to the west of Site 3, which will destroy regenerating native vegetation at present acting as a buffer to the west of Site 3, and will further fragment the indigenous ecosystem. This makes it even more important that as much as possible of Site 3's vegetation be preserved.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. That the catchment marked "A" on the map be retired from further tipping of spoil, as it has significance comparable to that of the main tawa-forested spur.***
- 2. That as soon as it is consolidated, and under the guidance of a qualified ecologist, the slope marked with horizontal strokes (in catchment "A") be revegetated with locally-sourced indigenous species.***
- 3. That if the slope on the south side of the main stream, (marked with vertical strokes on the vegetation map), is required for tipping spoil, it be given the same rehabilitative treatment as that recommended in the previous paragraph.***
- 4. That in cooperation with the Wellington Regional Council, Site 3 be included in the regional animal pest control programme.***

# WINSTONES, SITE 3.

## KEY TO VEGETATION MAP

### Terrain and Features

-----	ridge/spur
	road/farm track
.....	stream (including some culverted sections)
	completed spoil slope
spoil	slope proposed by Winstones for tipping
	boundary fence and gate
	pylon

### Vegetation

	boundaries
R, M	pole rimu; emergent miro
1	tawa-rewarewa/(podocarp)/broadleaved forest
1a	tawa rewarewa forest;(pukatea) mahoe/nikau/mamaku/kiekie/ supplejack in gullies
2	broadleaved spp. e.g. putaputaweetaa /mamaku/nikau; gorse on spur crests
2a mahoe/rangiora/	mosaic of early-successional species, e.g. gorse/broom on spur crests
A and B extending into Belmont	catchments with significant natural values Regional Park



3 (exotic conifers)/scrub/pasture

4 bare ground

5 gorse/broom

**SOME INDIGENOUS VASCULAR PLANTS IN S.N.A. SITE NO 15, HAYWARDS QUARRY BUSH, VICINITY WINSTONES /FIRTH'S QUARRY, HEBDEN CRESCENT, LOWER HUTT, COMPILED ON 27-6-97 BY B.J. MITCALFE AND J. C. HORNE.**

<b>BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>MAORI NAME</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>
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**MONOCOT TREES**

<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau	nikau
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**DICOT TREES AND SHRUBS**

<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki	titoki
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	makomako	wineberry
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora	rangiora
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweetaa	marbleleaf
<i>Cassinia leptophylla</i>	tauhinu	tauhinu
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>		
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kanono	kanono
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu	karamu
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu	karamu
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>		
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	karakā	karakā
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hināu	hināu
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange	hangehange
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	papauma	broadleaf
<i>Hebe stricta</i>	koromiko	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	porokaiwhiri	pigeonwood
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa	rewarewa
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kanuka	manuka
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi	mingimingi
<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>	ramarama	ramarama
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>	raataa	rata
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou	mapou
<i>Olearia rani</i>	heketara	heketara
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu	kohuhu
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	horoeka	lancewood
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	patee	seven finger
<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	poroporo	poroporo
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi	kamahi

**MONOCOT LIANES**

<i>Freycinetia banksii</i> ssp. <i>baueriana</i>		
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	kareao	kareao

**DICOT LIANES**

Clematis paniculata

Metrosideros perforata

Metrosideros fulgens

Parsonsia heterophylla

Rubus cissoides

puawananga

aka

aka kura

kaiwhiria

tataraamo

rata vine

rata vine

bush lawyer

**LYCOPODS**

Lycopodium volubile

waewaekoukou

club moss

## WINSTONES SITE 15 CONT'D, PAGE 2.

### FERNS

Asplenium bulbiferum	mouku	hen & chicken
Asplenium flaccidum	makawe a Raukatauri	hanging spleenwort
Asplenium hookerianum		
Asplenium oblongifolium	huruhuru whenua	shining spleenwort
Asplenium polyodon	petako	sickle fern
Blechnum chambersii	nini	
Blechnum discolor	piupiu	crown fern
Blechnum filiforme	paanako	thread fern
Blechnum sp. ("lowland")	kiokio	kiokio
Cyathea dealbata	ponga	silver fern
Cyathea medullaris	mamaku	mamaku
Dicksonia squarrosa	wheki	wheki
Hymenophyllum demissum	mauku	filmy fern
Hypolepis ambigua		
Hypolepis rufobarbata		
Lastreopsis hispida		
Histiopteris incisa	maata	water fern
Paesia scaberula	matata	ring fern
Pellaea rotundifolia	tarawera	
Phymatosorus pustulatus	kowaowao	hound's tongue
Phymatosorus scandens	mokimoki	climbing hound's tongue
Pneumatopteris pennigera	paakau	gully fern
Polystichum richardii	pikopiko	shield fern
Pteridium esculentum	raarahu	bracken
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia	ota	leatherleaf fern
Rumohra adiantiformis	karawhiu	

### ORCHIDS

Thelymitra longifolia	maikuku	sun orchid
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### GRASSES

Cortaderia toetoe	toetoe	toetoe
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### SEDGES

Uncinia uncinata	matau a Maui	hook grass
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### DICOT HERBS

Haloragus erecta  
Nertera depressa  
Senecio minimus

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

**POTENTIAL PROBLEM PLANTS**

*Buddleja davidii*

*Leycesteria formosa*

*Cytisus scoparius*

*Ulex europaeus*

Buddleia

Himalayan honeysuckle

Broom

Gorse

## **NOTES ON A RAPID RECONNAISSANCE OF (PART) SITE 15, HAYWARDS QUARRY BUSH, HEBDEN CRESCENT, S.H.2.**

**FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED BELOW, THIS SITE IS CONSIDERED ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991, SECTION 6.**

### **BOUNDARY**

The strip of forest on the northwestern edge of Site 15, part of the area indicated by the DoC as having significant natural values, has recently been completely covered over with quarry spoil. It has therefore been eliminated from this survey and should be deleted from the S.N.A. area. It is the subject of a recommendation below.

The existing S.N.A. boundary appears to include, and should include, the very steep escarpment in the southwest section, (centred on NZMS 260 Map R27 PtQ27, GR 744025), covered in second-growth native vegetation, forming a natural, green backdrop to the lower operating level of the quarry site. It is this escarpment, marked 3, with cross-hatching, on the vegetation map, which is the subject of these notes, a near-vertical portion of Site 15. **For clarity, from here on it will be referred to as 15a.**

Because of the need to observe safety procedures advised by quarry staff, it was not possible to ascertain exactly the line of the fence separating Site 15 from 15a, nor to conduct a personal reconnaissance. Instead, the site was surveyed through binoculars. A large part of Site 15 was botanised in error before we realised it was Firth's property, not Winstones. The plant species list for Site 15 is considered only broadly indicative of 15A's species, but is included here, since 15 and 15A are contiguous and ecologically continuous.

***The S.N.A. boundary should be revised to exclude the spoil-slope area marked ////// coded 5, and to include the areas marked 1, 3 and 4.***

### **FLORA AND FAUNA**

The significant vegetation of 15 includes (est.) 12 metre rewarewa/tawa, with a sub-canopy of titoki-karaka and an understorey of e.g. kawakawa, ramarama, mahoe, horoeka and hangehange. A post-mature hinau to 700 mm d.b.h. with layers of epiphytes was seen, indicating the considerable age of some components of the ecosystem. Nikau and supplejack are plentiful and there is a developing groundcover of fern species. Whereas fuchsia and five-finger, species habitually browsed by possum were not seen, the vegetation is in reasonably good condition except near the quarry face, where it is damaged and fragmented by quarrying activity. It is notable that the escarpment is virtually weed-free.

Tawa, karaka, titoki, pidgeonwood and nikau, all present on the site, are favoured food of kereru, native pigeon. Site 15 must therefore be of significance as bird habitat and food source, making Site 15 and 15a complementary to Site 3.

### **RARITY/REPRESENTATIVENESS**

Lowland forest sites are among those of most concern in the Wellington Conservancy, ("Plant Conservation Strategy", Wgtn Conservancy of DoC, 1996). This is because so many of them have been destroyed or severely modified by development. Site 15 is representative of Wellington west's tawa-dominant, lowland- hill-country forest from which mature podocarps have been logged.

A DoC inventory lists northern rata and black beech for Site 15. The presence of these species is very significant, since northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*) is now a very uncommon component of Wellington ecosystems, and the southern limit of black beech (*Nothofagus solandri* var. *solandri*) in Wellington was previously thought to be further north, at Dry Creek.

Aside from the vegetation, a significant feature of the site which contributes to its rarity value, is its situation, i.e. adjacent to and immediately north of the Wellington Faultline, a regionally- and nationally-outstanding landscape feature, part of our natural heritage.

### **HISTORY/CULTURAL FACTORS**

The NZMS 1 Series Map N160 HUTT, 1965, shows native forest extending from the vicinity of Site 15a, almost continuously for a mile to the northwest. Most of this has now been lost.

Crossing the spur crest is an overgrown 4WD track running roughly parallel to S.H.2, which, if permission from Winstones could be obtained, could eventually become part of a scenic walkway linking the site with e.g. Dry Creek.

The presence of kiekie is of significant to iwi.

### **DIVERSITY**

Sixty-nine indigenous species were listed in the reconnaissance, including 32 trees/shrubs. Further botanical survey would no doubt add to this list.

The steep, south-facing slope, a moist gully and a rounded spur crest, each landform with its own characteristic vegetation, offer considerable habitat diversity despite the small area.

### **DISTINCTIVENESS/LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY**

This steep, vegetated landform above the extractive, industrial site floor, stands out in complete contrast to its surroundings. Rising to over 100 metres altitude, it has natural prominence in the landscape.

Site 15a's indigenous vegetation adorns this portion of the Wellington Faultline appropriately. With sympathetic management, it will eventually contribute significantly to healing the surrounding landscape to the extent that is possible in an industrial area.

### **CONTINUITY/LINKAGES**

The proximity of S.N.A. Site 3, Kelson Bush, Liverton Rd Bush and Belmont Regional Park, makes Sites 15 and 15a part of a series

of indigenous vegetation sites, a seed source and a refuge for bird life. Nearby gullies at right angles to and above SH2, already contain advanced second-growth vegetation such as nikau, rewarewa and puka.

### **RESTORATION/SUSTAINABILITY**

Without further fragmentation by incursion of roading or quarrying, if buffered by the proposed planting of locally-sourced, indigenous species e.g. on the groomed area to the northeast, (marked 5), and complemented by the vegetation of the rest of Site 15, 15a may be just large enough to be self-sustaining. Given time and protection, rimu, rata, black beech and pukatea (which have been recorded in the DoC inventory for Site 15) could become established on Site 15a. They may already be present in seedling or sapling form.

Tawa, titoki, pigeonwood, karaka and nikau seedlings are evidence of bird activity, of tui and pigeon in particular, which augur well for the site's potential to continue its succession towards mature forest. This process will be greatly assisted by animal pest control. See recommendation below.

### **OTHER CONSERVATION VALUES**

The dense vegetation is providing significant protection for this steep face, from erosion and slipping. It also acts as a buffer to the rest of Site 15 and is a prominent natural feature viewed by all those entering the quarry from the south.

### **THREATS**

The immediate threat is further quarrying, roading and/or tipping of spoil in the vicinity. Spread of fire from nearby gorse as a result of vandalism is an indirect threat. Predation of birds, particularly kereru, is a threat to the survival of the forest and its biota.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. That under the supervision of an ecologist, the area marked 5, be planted with locally-sourced indigenous plants.*
- 2. That in cooperation with Wellington Regional Council, Sites 15 and 15a be subject to animal pest control.*

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Full cooperation from Winstones quarry manager during the reconnaissance was appreciated.





# WINSTONES/FIRTH: SITE NO. 15.

## KEY TO VEGETATION MAP

### Terrain and Features

-----	ridge/spur
	road/track
	vegetated escarpment
////////////////	spoil slope
	stream/water/diversion channel
	quarry terraces/former quarry terraces

### Vegetation

	boundaries
1 mamaku/nikau/supplejack/kiekie	tawa-rewarewa/hinau/titoki forest with in gullies
2	gorse/broom/indigenous scrub
2a	mosaic of early-successional species overtopping gorse
3 mamaku	closed-canopy, indigenous, mid- successional species, e.g. mahoe, rangiora,
4	second-growth tawa/hinau/broadleaved forest
5	bare area groomed for rehabilitative planting

